

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested. Claims 1-22 are all the claims pending in this application. Applicants' arguments as set forth in the Amendment filed on April 14, 2003 are still pertinent and, therefore, are hereby incorporated by reference. In addition, Applicants submit that Hayashi fails to disclose, teach or suggest a planographic printing plate that includes an aluminum substrate, as set forth in Applicants' claims. This feature is supported by the originally filed specification as at page 11, 1st and 2nd paragraphs, for example. Instead, Hayashi teaches that his photothermographic sheet material is "a generally used synthetic polymer sheet".¹ The Examiner cited US Patent 6,306,254 to Usui, JP 03-036545 A to Goto, JP 08-039958 to Usui, and US Patent 5,729,962 to Dirx, as teaching various properties and configurations of packaging material. But none of these references teaches or suggests a planographic printing plate including an aluminum substrate. Accordingly, even assuming that one of ordinary skill in the art were motivated to combine the references as suggested by the Examiner, any such combination(s) would still not teach or suggest all the elements as set forth in Applicants' claims.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

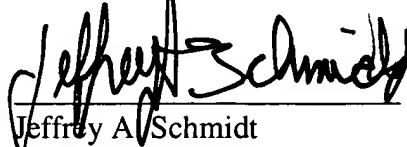
¹ Hayashi at col. 3, lines 53-59.

Preliminary Amendment
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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WASHINGTON OFFICE



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: July 21, 2003

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet material for packaging a planographic printing plate, wherein the planographic printing plate includes an aluminum substrate and an imaging surface having a coating film and is to be fed through an automatic plate-feeding mechanism, the sheet material comprising opposing surfaces, one surface being for contacting the imaging surface of a printing plate when the material is used for packaging the planographic printing plate, and the opposing surface having a Bekk smoothness from 3 seconds to 55 seconds.

2. (Currently amended) A package sheet structure comprising:
at least one planographic printing plate ~~having~~ comprising an aluminum substrate and an imaging surface for feeding through an automatic plate feeding mechanism; and

a packaging material packaging the planographic printing plate, the packaging material having opposing surfaces, with one surface contacting the imaging surface of the planographic printing plate, and the opposing surface having a Bekk smoothness from 3 seconds to 55 seconds.

7. (Currently Amended) A sheet material for packaging a planographic printing plate, wherein the planographic printing plate includes an aluminum substrate and a coating film, the sheet material comprising a contact surface which contacts the coating film of a the planographic printing plate when the sheet material is used for packaging the planographic printing plate, the contact surface having a Bekk smoothness from 3 seconds to 900 seconds, and a noncontact surface opposing the contact surface.

13. (Currently Amended) A package sheet structure comprising:

at least one planographic printing plate ~~having~~ comprising an aluminum substrate and a coating film; and

a packaging sheet material packaging the planographic printing plate, the packaging sheet material having a contact surface which contacts the coating film of the planographic printing plate when the sheet material is used for packaging the planographic printing plate, the contact surface having a Bekk smoothness from 3 to 900.